

### Seasonable Suggestions for Planters.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

I am often asked what time to plant, and if I observe the signs of the moon. Any time when I have the right condition of soil suits me. Some seeding periods are longer than others. Onion sets may be planted from August to March at any time when land is in proper condition—at any time for six months. There are two short periods for turnips, fall planting from August to October; spring planting from February to April. So with lettuce, parsnips and carrots, must be up before the long hot days. English peas may be planted from January 1st to April. Of course these are the periods for this locality.

It is important that a planter have all of his plans well in his mind long before the time for active work. And week by week and day by day all of his farm mapped out in his mind, and each crop properly suited to the kind of land. Most men have brains enough, but the trouble is in getting behind or rather starting too late, which makes them behind all the way through. It is not worth while shooting when the squirrel is gone.

This is the season of the year when the farmer should walk over his farm after every rain and prepare waterways so as to save land from hillside washing, and let no place sob or remain under water. A little timely care will add much to the value of the farm next season.

R. R. MOORE.

Guilford Co., N. C.

### Gaston County

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The Progressive Farmer is a great help to me. Permit me to give you a few random notes from old Gaston, and her bountiful crops. The corn acreage of this county is enormous—9,810, and the production, 127,335 bushels. The wheat acreage was 8,017, and the production, 876,281 bushels. So you see we will not lack for "the staff of life." The cotton crop was very short, and, as I remarked in the Gastonia Gazette's "Agricultural Topics Department," of which I am the editor: "The raising of cotton with us is no longer a money-making business. The uncertainty of the season and the high price of labor, has caused many farmers to become disgusted, and if there was any other cash crop, cotton would be abandoned." The cotton acreage was 12,466 and baleage 6,233.

Peas has been a profitable money crop for the

Mr. John Lindsay, of Tennessee, has brought a car load of hogs, about 600 in number, which he is selling to farmers at 8 cents per pound gross weight. They are fine porkers; many of them will weigh 600 pounds.

John A. Morrow killed two 18 months old pigs that weighed 1,558 pounds. Ward Bell killed one of the same litter that weighed 570. The point we wish to make is, that if three such hogs can be raised in Gaston, more can be raised, and it ought to be good business for Gaston farmers to raise hogs to sell to Gaston farmers who have to buy them. At 8 cents per pound gross, Mr. Morrow's hogs would have sold for \$124.64. And Mr. Bell's for \$45. At such rates it is plain that there is a good profit in raising hogs for sale in this State.

R. D. MARTIN.

Gaston Co., N. C.

### The President on Rural Mail Delivery.

In his recent message to Congress, President Roosevelt spoke as follows of the rural free delivery of mails:

"Rural free delivery service is no longer in the experimental stage; it has become a fixed policy. The results following its introduction have fully justified the Congress in the large appropriations made for its establishment and extension. The average yearly increase in postoffice receipts in the rural districts of the country is about two per cent. We are now able, by actual results, to show that where rural free-delivery service has been established to such an extent as to enable us to make comparisons the yearly increase has been upward of ten per cent.

"On November 1, 1902, 11,650 rural free-delivery routes had been established and were in operation, covering about one-third of the territory of the United States available for rural free-delivery service. There are now awaiting the action of the Department petitions and applications for the establishment of 10,748 additional routes. This shows conclusively the want which the establishment of the service has met and the need of further extending it as rapidly as possible. It is justified both by the financial results and by the practical benefits to our rural population; it brings the men who live on the soil into close relations with the active business world; it keeps the farmer in daily touch with the markets; it is a potential educational force; it enhances the value of farm property; makes farm life far pleasanter and less isolated, and will do much to check the undesirable current of population from the country to city.

It is hoped that the Congress will liberal appropriate the continuance of the service established and for its

kin, who lives near us, raised a turnip last year on his place, weighing 4 pounds, with the top 17 pounds. How is the turnip? Such as turn-up often.—Dunn

### North Carolina Farming Notes.

The roads in this part of the county are in a very bad condition. Many farmers are unable to haul farm products to market.—Rich Square Times.

We were shown a turnip last Saturday by Mr. John McGraw, who farms on Mr. John Roberts' place near Shelby, that for size and weight beats anything we ever saw. It weighed 14 pounds and is about 30 inches in circumference.—Shelby Aurora.

'Squire H. L. Price, one of the best farmers of Sandy Ridge Township, has been experimenting with a new breed of hogs, the "Mammoth Black" breed. Mr. Price killed three seven-months-old pigs one day last week weighing 200 pounds each, and yesterday he killed a fifteen-months-old pig weighing 408 pounds.—Monroe Enquirer.

Vegetables are exceedingly plentiful now in town. Turnips are hauled around town for thirty cents a bushel, potatoes sell from the boats at forty cents, and cabbages are equally as cheap. Yesterday a colored man was seen peddling a load of collards which he begged some one to give him one cent apiece for.—New Bern Journal.

Mr. J. S. Humphrey, who was in town the first of the week, tells us that the farmers in the upper end of the county are using more grain drills than heretofore. This means that more grain is being planted, which is a good indication of more prosperous farming and the employment of better methods.—Lumberton Robesonian.

The public weighers say that more peanuts have been packed this December than ever before in this month. It is not improbable that more have been raised in this vicinity than in any other year. Most of the offerings are by croppers and tenants and those who give liens to enable them to cultivate their crops.—Tarboro Southerner.

The sales in the Wilson tobacco market for December were handed to Mr. Leach, supervisor of sales of the tobacco board of trade, to-day as the market closed yesterday for the holidays. The report for December shows that during the month 1,936,243 pounds of the weed were sold on the Wilson warehouse floors, against 1,355,030 for December last year. The total sales to date on the Wilson market amount to 18,657,527 pounds, against 12,603,982 for the same period last season.—Wilson News.

The tobacco season just closed has been the largest in the history of New Bern, and the sales will nearly go to a million and a half pounds, which is quite a jump from a half million last year.—We understand an effort will be made to organize the Farmers Warehouse Co., which will be incorporated with a capital stock of \$5,000 to buy and sell tobacco and to erect a stemmery. The share will be of the par value of \$40

and an effort will be made to have part of the stock taken by the tobacco farmers of this section.—New Bern Journal.

The truck crop next year will be larger than usual. Much preparation has already been made for this crop. The fall crop of Irish potatoes is the finest ever known in this section.—The farmers in this section of the State are in better condition than we have ever known them. A good crop was raised and fair prices obtained. More debts have been liquidated and more improvements made than usual. Farm lands are bringing better prices and town property brings a hundred per cent more than it did only a few years ago.—Washington Progress.

### Fine Strawberry Prospect.

Mr. J. A. Westbrook, of Mt. Olive, the pioneer and the largest strawberry grower along the Atlantic Coast Line, was in the city yesterday to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the East Carolina Fruit and Truck Growers' Association, who met here to make arrangements for the movement of the coming season's crop of berries and other truck.

Being asked what the condition of the strawberry plants is now he said the plants are healthy and vigorous and the prospects are exceedingly fine owing to the very mild winter. With reference to the blooming and production of a second crop of berries this winter, he said he did not think the vines would be seriously damaged by this remarkable condition. Only two varieties, he said, had a second crop, "Excelsior" and "Kinley" berries, and the vines would be damaged by any.

Mr. Westbrook informed us that some of the growers who had shipped strawberries to New York in the past few weeks have received as much as \$1 a quart for their berries. The fruit was as pretty as he ever saw in the spring and the flavor was as fine.—Wilmington Messenger.

The experience of the Post Office Department in sections where rural free delivery has been in full operation for two years, it is stated by officials, justifies the belief that revenues in the rural districts are increasing fivefold over what they were under the conditions here prevailing. Rural free delivery has been one of the most satisfactory experiments which the government has undertaken for a long while, and a factory both to the government and to the farmers. Many pessimists arose at first to prophesy that the system would be a failure; that it would not be self-supporting; but on the contrary would enormously increase the postal deficit, and also that the farmers did not want it. Not only is the scheme proving more than self-supporting, but it is undoubtedly one of the strongest factors in relieving the monotony of the farm and bringing the farmer, his wife and children, into closer and pleasanter relationship with the great outside world. GUY E. MITCHELL.